

## EXPLOSION LEAVES MANY LOFTS DARK

Edison Company Unable to Replace Cables Burned Out in Accident.

### CANDLES A SUBSTITUTE

Gas Seepage, Ignited From Short Circuit Spark, Caused Bursting of Manholes.

Kerosene and candles substituted for incandescents in the old Tenderloin section of Broadway last night, extending from Thirty-third street south to the Madison Building, following the upheaval of manhole covers of the New York Edison Company early Friday evening when all the electric service was shut off. The district affected extends across Thirty-third street to Seventh avenue, south to Twenty-third street and east to Madison avenue.

Despite the efforts of laborers and engineers of the Edison company, who were incessantly spreading spoils of cable in West Twenty-seventh street, between Sixth and Fifth avenues, there was no resumption of service for the restaurants, dry goods stores, saloons and other places. A survey by the Edison men revealed that it would be dangerous to resume sending current from the station in Twenty-seventh street, where the first explosion took place.

The most likely account of what caused the street explosions was given by Deputy Chief George L. Ross of the Fire Department, who was first to arrive on the scene. Chief Ross, who had the leather peak of his cap torn off when a manhole cover blew up in front of the station, said he had learned from the Edison men that twelve large cables had become short circuited and set fire. The cables are used to carry power through the underground system of the Edison company from the water-side station at Forty-second street to the substation in Twenty-seventh street. A short circuit from the switchboard in the smaller station, which is both a distributing and receiving plant, caused the fire to burn out to the connections in the street. The fire ignited with the gas seepage, which is ever present in the buried conduits, created a pressure and burned the cables. In escaping it propelled the double covered Edison manholes skyward. Chief Ross said that most of the covers had been blown to fragments and scattered high in the air like shrapnel.

The small places broke many of the windows on the upper floors of the loft buildings. Chief Ross pointed out, because there was no glass broken on lower floors. Capt. McQueeney of the West Thirtieth street station sent extra details of policemen in plain clothes through the lightless district to watch the buildings and stores. The Edison company hoped to have a full service restored to-day and managed to furnish sufficient lighting service for several large buildings and the Fifth Avenue Theatre at Twenty-eighth street.

### TROLLEYS RESUME IN TOLEDO.

Buses Return to Jitney Fare and Fares Are Operated.

TOLEDO, Ohio, Dec. 6.—For the first time in a month the city had complete street car service to-day. Service came just in time to shield the public from a snowstorm and continued cold weather. Buses are still running on municipal permits, but it was announced that the smaller cars are dropping out. More than 2,000 bus permits were issued and to-day fewer than 500 were on the streets. The street car company is charging 6 cents and 2 cents for transfers.

## NEW COLUMBIA PAY SCALE MADE PUBLIC

And It May Be Applied in Time for Christmas.

Columbia University's new scale of salaries for teachers was announced yesterday by President Nicholas Murray Butler and may be applied in time to be a sort of Christmas gift to the faculty. The trustees have decided that full professors shall receive from \$8,000 to \$9,000 a year; associate professors, \$4,500 to \$5,000; assistant professors, \$3,000 to \$3,500; instructors, \$2,000 to \$2,500; assistants, \$1,000 to \$1,200. It is proposed in a limited number of cases to pay \$10,000 a year to professors of unusual distinction.

Investigation by President Butler disclosed the fact that salaries at Columbia were higher just after the civil war than they have been for many years. Professors got \$7,500 in 1875 and subordinate teachers were paid with similar liberality, even when Columbia's income was only \$300,000 to \$400,000 a year. When the period of rapid growth set in, it became impossible to pay such salaries and there was a cut all along the line. Nevertheless, the new scale gives to full professors only \$500 a year more than they received in 1875, though the cost of living has more than doubled.

"If such a scale of salaries as is suggested be established," said President Butler yesterday, "it will be necessary to take formal steps to limit the number of professorships, associate professorships and assistant professorships, and to make promotions only when vacancies occur through death, retirement or resignation, or when circumstances plainly require the establishment of additional teaching positions in the higher grades of service."

### GRAND JURY UNDER INQUIRY.

New Body to Seek Light on Acts of Its Recent Predecessors.

An inquiry into alleged efforts to influence members of the Grand Jury that considered charges of corruption in the spring election in Hoboken was begun yesterday by Justice Swayne in the Supreme Court in Jersey City. The Grand Jury returned no indictments. A new Grand Jury, which will be convened Tuesday, is expected to investigate the matter.

William J. Fanning of 55 Sterling place, Weehawken, and Charles Tilden, foreman of the Grand Jury, were witnesses yesterday. Fanning was alleged to have asked Eugene B. Hubert, a Grand Juror, if he was interested in the Hoboken election case. Hubert testified that a member of the City Commission had spoken of a contract to a Grand Juror in a way that appeared to be a hint that it would be awarded to the juror if he voted against indictments.

### "HARPERS" TO STAY AWHILE.

Undecided But Considering Several Removal Offers.

While Harper Brothers, publishers, are admittedly dissatisfied with conditions for their business now existing in New York and are considering leaving the city, there is no prospect of immediate change. That was the situation as outlined yesterday by Clinton Tyler Brainard of Harper Brothers. The printers' strike has been the principal thorn in the flesh of the publishing house.

Mr. Brainard said proposals had been considered to move their publishing plant to Baltimore, to Wilmington, Del., to New Brunswick, N. J., and also one or two places in the West, but that nothing definite had been decided upon yet. The question of erecting a plant on the company plan in Baltimore has been discussed with members of the Baltimore Board of Trade, he said.

In any event it is regarded as likely that Harper Bros. will continue to publish in New York office, even if its publishing plant should be moved elsewhere.

### Theatre Burns in Westbury, R. I.

WESTBURY, R. I., Dec. 6.—The Princess Theatre, a motion picture house, and five stores were damaged to-day by a fire in the Potter Building. The loss was estimated at \$50,000.

## ITALY UNREST LAID TO PEACE PARLEY

Continued from First Page.

ing the latter to consider the irreparable losses caused by mutual abstention from voting," he continued, after alluding to the small number of constitutional electors who went to the polls in the last general election.

"The work of the Peace Conference was slow and uncertain, not always coherent and not always considerate of the ideals which made the people enter the war or of their legitimate aspirations, for which they endured enormous sacrifices," Signor Tittoni added. "This attitude of the Peace Conference produced discontent and unrest, which has been especially felt in Italy, whose war aims found the greatest opposition."

"Italy is a true democracy, a true and genuine democracy without the least touch of plutocracy. She is animated only by ideals of equality and justice. Viva the King. Viva Italy."

The *Popolo Romano* attributes the greater part of the responsibility for the recent troubles in Italy to the Allies, saying that "owing to a mistaken idea of Italy's international policy they aroused Italian aspirations, thereby arousing the resentment and mistrust of the Italian population."

### ITALY ACCEPTS TAX BURDEN.

Attitude of People Lends Encouragement to Government.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6.—A statement by the Italian Minister of Finance, reaching the embassy here to-day, said the Government was greatly encouraged by the willingness of the Italian people to assume the burden of added taxes in order to meet the heavy charges of the war.

"The recent financial measures taken in the kingdom are a clear proof of the seriousness of purpose of the Government in dealing with the financial situation," said the Finance Minister. "I desire to emphasize that an impartial study of our finances cannot lead to an optimistic conception regarding the future, especially if the countries who were at our side during the war will continue to be at our side 'where it is to their interest to be during the great work of reconstruction.'"

### Italy Abandons Bread Cards.

ROME, Dec. 6.—Bread and macaroni cards will be abolished before Christmas, according to a Government announcement, and after that time only sugar will be dispensed by the card system. Italy is the last of the Allies to abandon bread cards.

### ROBERTSON NAMES BOURASSE.

Wife of Latter Also Files Suit for Divorce.

Dr. Joseph A. Robertson filed yesterday a counter claim to the divorce action which Sarah L. Robertson has brought against him. He names Napoleon A. Bourasse, an investment broker.

Mrs. Robertson has charged her husband with misconduct in the Hotel Alhambra with Miss Davis, nurse. Both he and the nurse deny the charges. In his counter suit Dr. Robertson asserts his wife and Bourasse were together on several occasions at the Plaza Hotel, at her cottage at Deal Beach, N. J., and at 47 West Forty-ninth street in this city.

Helen Bourasse, who sued Napoleon A. Bourasse for \$25,000 in 1918, has filed a divorce action. In her reply to her separation complaint Bourasse charged that Andrew Freedman, one time owner of the Giants baseball team, had travelled through Europe with her prior to her marriage. Mrs. Bourasse said this charge was false.

### To Buy Corn Products Plant.

The American Cotton Oil Company of New Jersey was yesterday authorized by Federal Judge Learned Hand to purchase for \$250,000 the Davenport, Iowa, plant of the Corn Products Company. The Corn Products Company was ordered dissolved in a Sherman law prosecution some time ago. The Davenport plant had not been operated since 1912.

## PEACE AGAIN URGED BY RUSSIAN SOVIETS

American Communists Heard in Moscow Appeal.

LONDON, Dec. 6.—Strong resolutions urging the making of peace with the Entente were adopted by the Seventh Congress of Russian Soviets, meeting in Moscow, at which Premier Lenin and War Minister Trotsky were present, as was also Tom Palmer, on behalf of the American Communists, according to a Moscow message to-day. The resolution passed by the Congress read: "The Soviet Government proposed peace to the Entente on August 8 and has repeated the proposal eight times since. It affirms again its unalterable desire for peace. It offers to all the Entente Powers—England, France, the United States and Japan, together or separately—to begin negotiations."

### GERMAN TRADERS IN RUSSIA.

Americans Also Reported Active in Southern District.

LONDON, Dec. 6.—A German commercial mission has been secretly despatched to South Russia to conclude agreements renewing commercial and economic relations there, according to information reaching London to-day from Rostov-on-Don, the principal shipping point for southeast Russia.

It is also reported that a representative of a large American financial firm, who is now at Rostov, is about to close a contract with a Russian financial group.

Besides hoping to establish commercial relations between the United States and Russia, the mission is expected to undertake industrial undertakings the Rostov addressees add, an American group has decided to extend credit in dollars to the South Russian Government at a favorable rate of exchange.

### CZAR'S SLAYER PUT TO DEATH.

Verdict of Soviet Court at Perm Is Carried Out.

COPENHAGEN, Dec. 6.—The Soviet authorities in Russia have punished by death the individual held immediately responsible for the slaying of Emperor Nicholas and his family at Yekaterinburg in June, 1918, when the Czech-Slovak troops were approaching that city, where the Imperial personages were then being held prisoner, according to a despatch to the Politburo from Kovo to-day.

The message quotes the Bolshevik newspaper *Pravda* of Moscow as authority for this statement. The *Pravda* account states that M. Jachontoff, a member of the Yekaterinburg Soviet, had been condemned to death at Perm for ordering the deaths and the sentence has been executed.

### GEN. COVARO QUILTS CABINET.

Spanish War Minister's Course Had Stirred Antagonism.

MADRID, Dec. 6.—Gen. Covaro, Minister of War, has resigned.

A Madrid despatch of Friday said that Gen. Covaro had confirmed the sentence of the Court of Honor condemning twenty-three students in the Higher War School and separating them from the army. It was known that the Cabinet Ministers disagreed with the decision of the War Minister and the resignation of the latter was looked for.

### KING RECEIVES U. S. OFFICERS.

Victor Emmanuel Meets Completion of the North Dakota.

ROME, Dec. 6.—Officers of the United States battleship North Dakota were presented to King Victor Emmanuel to-day by Peter A. Jay, counselor of the American Embassy. The King expressed appreciation of Italy at the honor paid by the United States to the late Italian Ambassador, Count Macchi di Celere.

Armed American marines disembarked at an Italian port for the first time when they formed the guard of honor at Naples for the late Ambassador.

## BURLESON SURPLUS TURNS INTO A LOSS

Representative Steenerson Shows Huge Deficit When Railway Bills Are Paid.

### CARRY MORE, PAID LESS

Great Shrinkage Also in Telegraphs, Despite Large Increase in Rates.

Special Despatch to The Sun.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6.—Postmaster-General Burleson's control of the postal service in the last seven years will show a large deficit when all bills are paid instead of surplus of \$25,000,000, as announced in the annual report of the Post Office Department, Representative Steenerson (Minn.), chairman of the House Post Office and Post Roads Committee, said to-day.

The surplus was made possible, Mr. Steenerson said, only by the fact that the Postmaster-General is paying the railroads \$15,000,000 less for carrying the mail now than in 1913, despite the fact that the volume of mail, due to the parcel post, has doubled. "Claims of more than \$100,000,000 for additional railroad pay are now pending against the department," and Mr. Steenerson points out that if one-third of these were allowed, Mr. Burleson's seven year surplus would be gone.

The deficit in the governmental operation of the telegraph lines on top of a \$31,000,000 increase in rates and the fact that Mr. Burleson virtually allowed officials of the Western Union to operate the lines for the Government also was criticized by Mr. Steenerson.

"The Postmaster-General in his annual report points out that for the last seven years the total net surplus in the postal service is \$25,000,000," he said. "The principal saving appears to have been in the expenditures for railway mail pay, which he now says is at the annual rate of \$47,000,000, notwithstanding the fact that the volume of mail during that period has at least doubled."

"The parcel post has reached two and one-half billion pounds or more than one-half of the total volume of the mails, and yet the compensation of the railroads has been reduced from \$52,000,000 in 1913 to the present rate of annual expenditure of \$47,000,000. In other words, the work of the railroads has been doubled, but their pay has been reduced 10 per cent."

"The claims of the railroads for increased rate of pay over and above what they have been paid for the last three years amount to more than \$100,000,000. If this claim is allowed only to the extent of one-third, it will wipe out the whole of the alleged surplus. In view of the fact that the Government itself, in running the railroads, has increased the freight and express rates to the private citizen from 25 to 30 per cent, because of the increased cost of operation, it seems quite probable that their award will wipe out completely the supposed surplus."

"Mr. Burleson's management of the telegraph and telephone has entailed a loss of more than \$14,000,000 and \$9,000,000 of this has been awarded by him, under compensation contracts, to the Western Union Telegraph Company and the American Telephone and Telegraph Company. They not only get \$9,000,000 out of the taxpayers of the country, but \$31,000,000 in increased rates was authorized by Mr. Burleson to be charged against the public."

### Annual Vesper This Afternoon.

The annual vesper celebration of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, a Roman Catholic missionary society in the New York archdiocese, of which the Very Rev. Monsignor John J. Burn, chancellor of the local archdiocese, is the diocesan director, will take place this afternoon at 4 o'clock in St. Patrick's Cathedral.

## PROFITEERS TO SEND SUGAR UP TO 25 CENTS

Big Price Jump Expected When Federal Control Ends.

Profiteering in sugar on a scale unprecedented is feared by men in close touch with the present situation when Government control of the available supply ends December 31. Housewives may expect to pay as high as 25 cents a pound for their sugar within a short time after that date when vast supplies believed to be in storage are released.

Members of the Sugar Equalization Board exonerate the larger refiners and jobbers of blame in connection with the present sugar shortage and say that so far as can be learned the prominent dealers are doing everything in their power to remedy the situation. It is the smaller wholesalers who are believed to be holding out on quantities they were able to accumulate when the supply was comparatively plentiful. The combined holdings of these would be sufficient to allow a plentiful supply of sugar for all if placed on the market at this time. The boarders are holding out for higher prices.

The profiteering period promises to be brief, however, as after February 1, when the Cuban crop begins to appear in the market, the price should drop to some extent, although it is predicted that the new crop will sell for about 16 or 18 cents a pound until early in the summer. Another drop in price is looked for then. Although some Eastern refiners are still in active operation, they are working on the balance of the old sugar crop for export to England under a war time agreement.

Soldiers on duty in the vicinity of New York will suffer little inconvenience from the sugar shortage, according to Col. J. M. Carson, zone supply officer, but have for some time been conserving as far as possible. Other army districts are not so well fixed.

Record prices are being paid for the new Cuban crop on the exchange. There was a sale reported yesterday of 7,000 bags, to be shipped in December, at 12 cents a pound f. o. b. Cuba. A further sale of 15,000 bags at the same price to operators was also reported. February to May shipments sold at 8 1/2 cents to operators.

### FRENCH STEAMSHIP SINKS.

Crew of the Colmar Reported Rescued Off Nova Scotia.

HALIFAX, N. S., Dec. 6.—The French steamship Colmar, reported yesterday in distress off the Nova Scotia coast, sank during the night, according to wireless messages received here to-day.

Twelve members of the crew to-day reached Canso, fifty miles from where the Colmar sank, in a small boat. The other fifteen members of the crew had been picked up by another vessel shortly after the Colmar went down.

## TAFT SAYS PALMER PASSES 'RED' BUCK

Insists That Suppression Is the Work of the Department of Justice.

### STATES TO COOPERATE

Congress Should Provide Laws and Money to End Evil at Once.

In a talk yesterday on the spread of radicalism in this country, delivered by Henry W. Taft before the League for Political Education at a meeting in Carnegie Hall, Mr. Taft made the charge that Attorney-General Palmer, in recommending to Congress that the State governments rather than the Department of Justice take up the work of suppressing Bolshevism is engaged in "passing the buck." In Mr. Taft's opinion the assassination of President McKinley seems to give the Federal Government all the authority it needs.

"The Attorney-General recommends," said Mr. Taft, "and the President in his last message urges the passage of a Federal statute to cover the situation; but security bills for the same purpose were introduced in the last Congress and none were passed. Moreover the Attorney-General does not appear to be sanguine that the Federal Government can adequately deal with the subject."

"He urges that Congress recommend to the several States the enactment of similar statutes so that the service of their law enforcing machinery may be availed of. He says that they have at their command infinitely greater forces than the United States Government for detecting and punishing seditious acts, and cites the case that in New York there are 12,000 policemen and that the District Attorney has a force of fifty prosecuting attorneys. He contrasts this with the fact that under the appropriation granted by Congress to the Department of Justice the maximum number of men available to the department is limited to 500 for the entire United States."

"But is not the protection of the American people against the effects of revolutionary propaganda a matter peculiarly within the proper function of the Federal Government? And is it not humiliating that the Attorney-General is forced to complain that funds are withheld which are necessary for the protection of our fundamental institutions?"

"The First Amendment of the Federal Constitution prohibits Congress from making a law abridging the freedom of speech or of the press. Under this provision, the mere holding of an opinion or even expressing it cannot be a crime in an extreme case. The advocate, either orally or in writing, of the overthrow of our Government and with the intent of accomplishing that result, may undoubtedly be made a crime by act of Congress. The Attorney-General may be right that the existing statutes relating to the subject are not adequate, but the question does not seem to have been pushed for decision in the higher courts. But if more legislation is necessary, Congress should not delay in enacting it and appropriating funds sufficient for its effective execution. But the exceptional character of the Bolshevik menace makes it a matter of national concern. The Federal Government should primarily attempt to protect us against its insidious effects. We should not be dependent upon State action, and yet where, as in New York State, there already exists an adequate statute, the power of our State Government ought to be brought to bear to abate the evil. The anarchy statute passed on account of the assassination of President McKinley is probably sufficient. We hear much of investigations after are started by disclosure. But there seem to be few prosecutions and convictions."

Mr. Taft defined Bolshevism as "seeking to overthrow the entire social, industrial and political system which has existed since the middle ages." It would create dictatorship, he said, "with the proletariat as the single governing class; it deprives the individual of all rights of property, of the right of free action in life and forces him to be content if his barest need of food and clothing and shelter is assured to him."

### CHINA'S ACTION PROTESTED.

Russian Assembly Opposes Mongolian Frontier Violations.

IRKUTSK, Dec. 6.—An assembly of the Cosack, Zenastov, cooperative societies, exchange committees and representatives of all political parties held in China on November 30 unanimously adopted resolutions protesting against what was termed the violation by China of the autonomy of Outer Mongolia. The resolutions declared China's action violated the Russian-Mongolian covenant of 1915, menaces the security of the Siberian frontier, increases the difficulties of supplying Siberia with necessities and violates the principle of national self-determination.

### ARGENTINA LOOKING FOR LOAN.

Buenos Aires, Dec. 6.—Domingo Salaberry, Argentine Minister of Finance, who will go to the United States as a delegate to the Pan-American Financial Congress, will study where the possibility of negotiating a loan of \$100,000,000 which is said to have been offered to Argentina by North American banks on "very good terms," says *La Nacion* this morning.

If negotiated, the loan would be used for consolidating the national floating debt.

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